

COUNTRY: Germany (Soviet Zone)

CONFIDENTIAL

TOPIC: Military Information from the Templin Training Area

25X1A

EVALUATION: See below

PLACE OBTAINED:

25X1A

DATE OF CONTE

DATE PREPARED: 17 July 1951

DATE OBTAINED:

25X1A

REFERENCE:

PAGES: 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE): 1 - Sketch on ditto

REMARKS:

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SOURCE:

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1. The boundaries of the Templin (N 54/U 81) troop training grounds were marked by signboards with the inscription "Training Grounds" in German and Russian. Between 10 and 18 June 1951, it was determined that the area south of Grosser Beutel See primarily contained troop quarters, and the area north of the lake was used for field training, and especially, for firing practice. On 15 June, a widely spaced motor column practiced convoy driving in the Marienthal-Ribbeck area, the vehicles of the column apparently could communicate by radio. The column included T-34 tanks No 534 and 559, 1 armored scout car, 1 personnel carrier, and 22 motorcycles each carried three men with full equipment. Two filled, cigar-shaped captive balloons, each 8 meters in diameter, were seen in the woods east of the Hammelspring-Vogelsang woods, where low wooden barracks buildings and tents were being set up. \*

2. The following troops arrived at the Templin training area between 13 and 17 June:

At 11 p.m. on 13 June. From 500 to 600 unarmed trained personnel wearing red-bordered black epaulets were unloaded from 12 boxcars at the Hammelspring railroad station and marched to Camp Hammelspring, led by several officers.

At 10 p.m. on 14 June. From 300 to 400 unarmed recruits wearing red-bordered black epaulets were unloaded from eight boxcars at the Templin railroad station and rode to Camp Hammelspring on motor vehicles with numbers of the E 2-30-xx series.

At 5 p.m. on 17 June. About 200 unarmed trained personnel, including many officers, who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia, were unloaded from five boxcars at the Vogelsang railroad station and went to Camp Vogelsang. \*\*

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3. [REDACTED] through the Templin training area from Tornow to Zaaren Lock via the Fischerhafen Zaaren and made the following observations:

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South bank. After having passed the western boundary of the training area, source saw several log houses and Finnish steam baths. A short distance further, there were two long two-story wooden buildings, apparently quarters. The Havel River, which is 20 meters wide at this spot, was crossed by an unplanked log bridge.

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The gap in the center of the bridge could be closed by a tin pontoon which lay beside the bridge. Further downstream there were 10 pontoons beside the bank, and then several long two-story wooden buildings and some semiunderground wooden shelters.

North bank. Several semiunderground shelters were on the western edge of the training area. Six trucks were parked opposite the location of the 10 pontoons. Further downstream, there were six 37-mm AA guns emplaced at about 20 meter intervals in a semicircle. Several watchtowers which were occupied were seen near the emplacements. A target range, about 100 meters long, was east of the emplacement. No firing practice was observed.

4. The chief of the HO in Zehdenick said that the Soviet troops in the Templin training area were from Oranienburg, Eberswalde and Prenzlau, because he recognized officers who were making purchases as having been there in 1950 and he had also met them in the aforementioned towns. The German laborers employed with the troops at the training grounds had been brought from the respective military posts. The general who inspected the units at Templin at the beginning of June had been previously seen in Eberswalde by the chief of HO. The informant further said that, contrary to practice in 1950, the selling of alcoholic beverages to Soviet troops was strictly forbidden this year. Source believed that the troops were engaged in night practice between 10 and 18 June, as no troops were seen training during the day but gunfire was heard at night. \*\*\*

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Comment. The area described by source cover the entire Templin training grounds. Source's opinion, that the southern section of the training area is the billeting area and the northern section is the practice area, is correct. Previous reports mentioned Camp "Hammelspring" which extends as far as Kehnenberg, and Camp Vogelsang which extends north of the Vogelsang-Burgwall railroad line between the localities and Burgwall and as far as the Havel River. It is fairly definitely believed that Camp Vogelsang is identical with Camp Burgwall which has been reported on by

[REDACTED] On the basis of available reports, Camp Vogelsang is believed to quarter elements of the 25th Tank Div, and Camp Hammelspring elements of the 6th Gds "Mech Div. [REDACTED] 25X1A The headquarters units of the Fourth Gds Mech Army there are probably quartered throughout the billeting area. The captive balloons mentioned in the present report were probably used for directing artillery firing practice. [REDACTED] Sketch was drawn by source. The broken line outlines the restricted training area. 25X1A Source did not indicate the quartering area within the training area since he did not know the exact boundaries.

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Comment. These rail movements are reported for the first time. There were 700 to 800 troops, who either went on furlough and/or were dischargees, and 300 to 400 recruits.

25X1C Comment. Source's trip was made from west to east, first going past Camp Vogelsang and, then, northwards into the training area. The buildings and quarters observed belong to Camp Vogelsang. The engineer equipment is believed to belong either to the 194th Engr Bn of the 25th Tank Div or to the 3d Engr Regt (?) of the Fourth Gds Mech Army. The motorboats seen by

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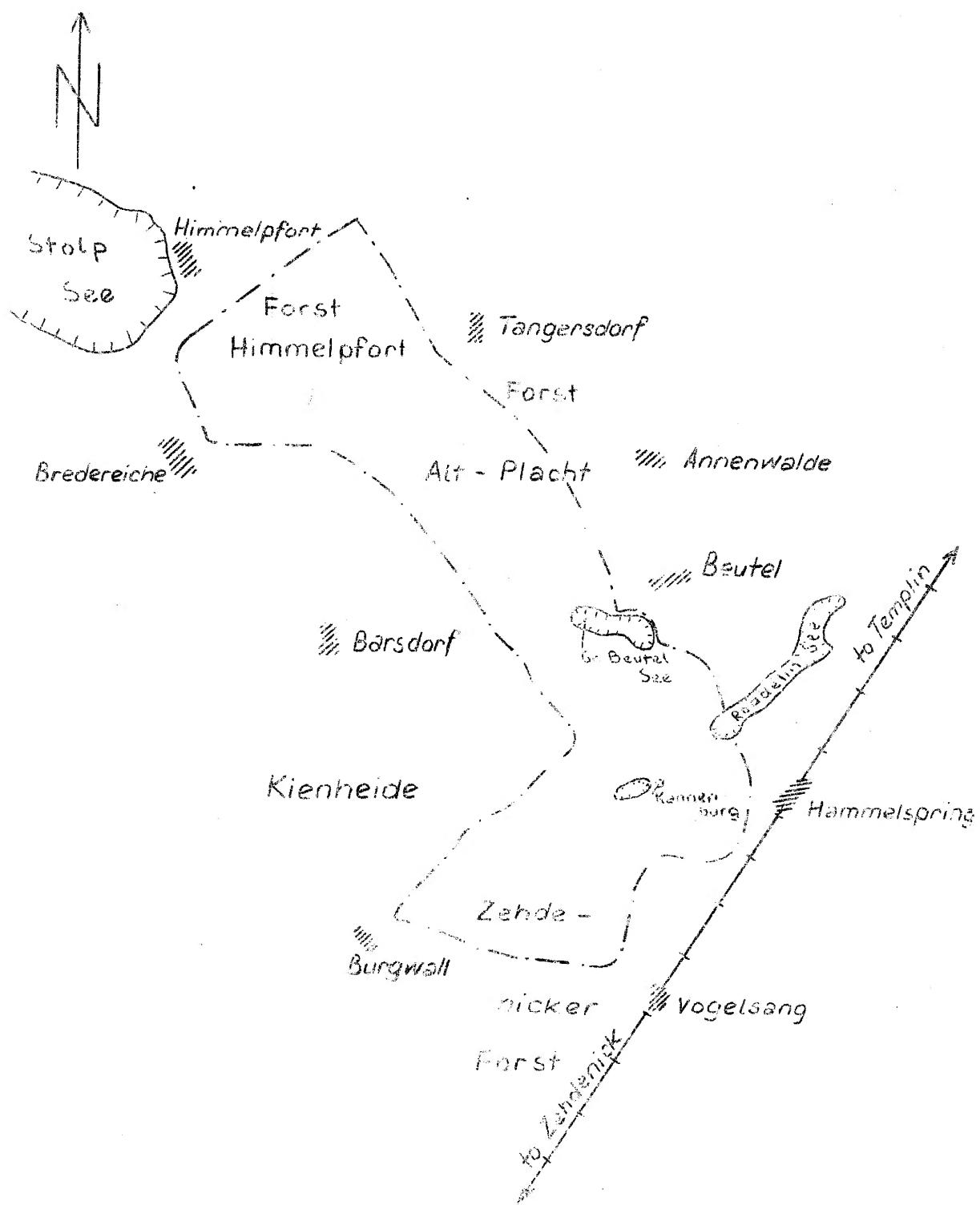
[REDACTED] Vogelsang are believed to make their purchases in Zehdenick, source's information on the home stations of the troops is given credence. The general mentioned in the present report is probably the commanding general of the Fourth Gds "Mech Army, whose headquarters is located in Eberswalde.

1 Annex: One sketch on ditto.

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## Templin Troop Training Grounds



Scale about 1:100,000

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